

What is claimed is:

1. A method for providing traceability of mail pieces,
comprising the steps of:

5 creating a plurality of mail pieces;

 providing a first identification code on each of said
plurality of mail pieces, said first identification code
corresponding to a source of the mail pieces;

10 creating a mailing statement for said plurality of mail
pieces;

 providing a second identification code on said mailing
statement, said second identification code corresponding to said
source of the mail pieces;

15 submitting said plurality of mail pieces to a postal service
facility.

2. The method of Claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

 scanning said mailing statement to read said second
identification code;

20 scanning at least a sampling of said plurality of mail pieces
to read said first identification code; and

 verifying that said first identification code corresponds to
said second identification code.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein said first identification code is encrypted.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein said first identification code is embedded into a digital image or text.

5 5. The method of claim 1, wherein said first identification code is embedded into a watermark.

6. The method of claim 1, wherein said first identification code is embedded into paper fibers.

10 7. The method of claim 1, wherein said first identification code is embedded into invisible ink.

8. The invention of claim 1, further comprising the step of:
capturing and recording the identify of an individual
submitting said plurality of mail pieces.